

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) An apparatus comprising:

a plurality of ports each adapted to receive Ethernet packets; and

a data-link layer switch controller, when one of the Ethernet packets comprises an Internet protocol (IP) multicast packet comprising an IP multicast destination address and an IP source address, to request generation of an entry in a bridge table based on said IP multicast destination address and said IP source address, to select one or more of the ports based upon the entry;

wherein the selected one or more ports transmit the Ethernet packet.

2. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1:

wherein the IP multicast packet comprises a virtual local area network identifier (VLAN ID); and

wherein the data-link layer switch controller is further to select the one or more of the ports based upon the IP multicast destination address, the IP source address, and the VLAN ID.

3. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

a memory to store associations between IP addresses and the ports,
wherein said associations include said entry;

wherein, to select one or more of the ports based upon the IP multicast destination address and the IP source address, the data-link layer switch controller is further to select the one or more of the ports based upon the associations stored in the memory.

4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein, to select one or more of the ports based upon the IP multicast destination address and the IP source address, the data-link layer switch controller is further:

to identify one of the associations stored in the memory based on the IP multicast destination address and the IP source address; and

to confirm the association is an association between an IP address and the ports.

5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein, to identify one of the associations stored in the memory based on the IP multicast destination address and the IP source address, the datalink layer switch controller is further:

to generate a key based on the IP multicast destination address and the IP source address; and

to identify the one of the associations based on the key.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein, to confirm the association is an association between an IP address and the ports, the data-link layer switch controller is further:

to determine whether the association is marked as an IP multicast association.

7. (Previously Presented) An apparatus comprising:

a plurality of ports each adapted to receive Ethernet packets;

a data-link layer switch controller, when one of the Ethernet packets comprises an Internet protocol (IP) multicast packet comprising an IP multicast destination address and an IP source address, to select one or more of the ports based upon the IP multicast destination address and the IP source address;

a memory to store associations between IP addresses and the ports, wherein the data-link layer switch controller is further to select the one or more of the ports based upon the associations stored in the memory, wherein the data-link layer switch controller is further:

to identify one of the associations stored in the memory based on the IP multicast destination address and the IP source address;

to confirm the association is an association between an IP address and the ports wherein, to confirm the association is an association between an IP address and the ports, the data-link layer switch controller is further to determine whether the association is marked as an IP multicast association, and

wherein, to determine whether the association is marked as an IP multicast association, the data-link layer switch controller is further to determine whether a flag stored in the memory and corresponding to the association is set.

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the data-link layer switch controller, when the data-link layer switch controller cannot identify one of the associations stored in the memory based on the IP multicast destination address and the IP source address, is further to generate a message requesting the creation of an association for the IP multicast destination address and the IP source address.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the data-link layer switch controller, when the data-link layer switch controller cannot identify one of the associations stored in the memory based on the IP multicast destination address and the IP source address, is further to transmit the Ethernet packet from the ports as destination unknown.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, further comprising:
a central processing unit to create the association for the IP multicast destination address and the IP source address.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1:
wherein the data-link layer switch controller, when one of the Ethernet packets comprises a Media Access Control (MAC) multicast packet comprising a MAC multicast destination address and does not comprise an IP multicast packet, is further to select one or more of the ports based upon the MAC multicast destination address;
wherein the selected one or more ports transmit the Ethernet packet.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11:

wherein the MAC multicast packet comprises a virtual local area network identifier (VLAN ID); and

wherein the data-link layer switch controller, is further to select the one or more of the ports based upon the MAC multicast destination address and the VLAN ID.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising:

a memory to store associations between MAC addresses and the ports;

wherein, to select one or more of the ports based upon the MAC multicast destination address, the data-link layer switch controller is further to select the one or more of the ports based upon the associations stored in the memory.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein, to select one or more of the ports based upon the MAC multicast destination address, the data-link layer switch controller is further:

to identify one of the associations stored in the memory based on the MAC multicast destination address; and

to confirm the association is an association between a MAC address and the ports.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein, to identify one of the associations stored in the memory based on the MAC multicast destination address, the data-link layer switch controller is further:

to generate a key based on the MAC multicast destination address; and to identify the one of the associations based on the key.

16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein, to confirm the association is an association between a MAC address and the ports, the data-link layer switch controller is further:

to determine whether the association is marked as a MAC multicast association.

17. (Previously Presented) An apparatus comprising:

- a plurality of ports each adapted to receive Ethernet packets;
- a data-link layer switch controller, when one of the Ethernet packets comprises an Internet protocol (IP) multicast packet comprising an IP multicast destination address and an IP source address, to select one or more of the ports based upon the IP multicast destination address and the IP source address;
- wherein the data-link layer switch controller, when one of the Ethernet packets comprises a Media Access Control (MAC) multicast packet comprising a MAC multicast destination address and does not comprise an IP multicast packet, is further to select one or more of the ports based upon the MAC multicast destination address;
- wherein the selected one or more ports transmit the Ethernet packet;
- a memory to store associations between MAC addresses and the ports;
- wherein, to select one or more of the ports based upon the MAC multicast destination address, the data-link layer switch controller is further to select the one or

more of the ports based upon the associations stored in the memory, to identify one of the associations stored in the memory based on the MAC multicast destination address, and to confirm the association is an association between a MAC address and the ports,

wherein, to confirm the association is an association between a MAC address and the ports, the data-link layer switch controller is further to determine whether the association is marked as a MAC multicast association, wherein, to determine whether the association is marked as a MAC multicast association, the data-link layer switch controller is further, to determine whether a flag stored in the memory and corresponding to the association is clear.

18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising:

a memory to store a bridge table comprising a plurality of entries each identifying one or more of the ports and addressable by a key;

wherein, to select one or more of the ports based upon the IP multicast destination address and the IP source address, the data-link layer switch controller is further to generate the key based upon the IP multicast destination address and the IP source address;

wherein, to select one or more of the ports based upon the MAC multicast destination address, the data-link layer switch controller is further to generate the key based upon the MAC multicast destination address; and

wherein the selected ports comprise the ports identified by the bridge table entry addressed by the key.

19. (Original) An integrated circuit comprising the apparatus of claim 1.
20. (Original) An Ethernet switch comprising the apparatus of claim 1.
21. (Previously Presented) An apparatus comprising:
a plurality of port means for receiving Ethernet packets; and
data-link layer switch controller means, when one of the Ethernet packets comprises an Internet protocol (IP) multicast packet comprising an IP multicast destination address and an IP source address, for requesting generation of an entry in a bridge table based on said IP multicast destination address and said IP source address, and for selecting one or more of the port means based upon the entry;
wherein the selected one or more port means transmit the Ethernet packet.
22. (Original) The apparatus of claim 21:
wherein the IP multicast packet comprises a virtual local area network identifier (VLAN ID); and
wherein the data-link layer switch controller means is further for selecting the one or more of the port means based upon the IP multicast destination address, the IP source address, and the VLAN ID.

23. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 21, further comprising:
memory means for storing associations between IP addresses and the port means, wherein said associations include said entry;
wherein, to select one or more of the port means based upon the IP multicast destination address and the IP source address, the data-link layer switch controller means is further for selecting the one or more of the port means based upon the associations stored in the memory.

24. (Original) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein, for selecting one or more of the port means based upon the IP multicast destination address and the IP source address, the datalink layer switch controller is further:

for identifying one of the associations stored in the memory based on the IP multicast destination address and the IP source address; and

for confirming the association is an association between an IP address and the port means.

25. (Original) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein, for identifying one of the associations stored in the memory based on the IP multicast destination address and the IP source address, the data-link layer switch controller is further:

for generating a key based on the IP multicast destination address and the IP source address; and

for identifying the one of the associations based on the key.

26. (Original) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein, for confirming the association is an association between an IP address and the port means, the data-link layer switch controller means is further:

for determining whether the association is marked as an IP multicast association.

27. (Previously Presented) An apparatus comprising:

a plurality of port means for receiving Ethernet packets; and

data-link layer switch controller means, when one of the Ethernet packets comprises an Internet protocol (IP) multicast packet comprising an IP multicast destination address and an IP source address, for selecting one or more of the port means based upon the IP multicast destination address and the IP source address;

wherein the selected one or more port means transmit the Ethernet packet;

memory means for storing associations between IP addresses and the port means;

wherein, to select one or more of the port means based upon the IP multicast destination address and the IP source address, the data-link layer switch controller means is further adapted for selecting the one or more of the port means based upon the associations stored in the memory, for identifying one of the associations stored in the memory based on the IP multicast destination address and the IP source address, and for confirming the association is an association between an IP address and the port means,

wherein, for confirming the association is an association between an IP address and the port means, the data-link layer switch controller means is further for determining whether the association is marked as an IP multicast association, wherein, for determining whether the association is marked as an IP multicast association, the data-link layer switch controller means is further for determining whether a flag stored in the memory and corresponding to the association is set.

28. (Original) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the data-link layer switch controller means, when the data-link layer switch controller means cannot identify one of the associations stored in the memory based on the IP multicast destination address and the IP source address, is further for generating a message requesting the creation of an association for the IP multicast destination address and the IP source address.

29. (Original) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the data-link layer switch controller means, when the data-link layer switch controller means cannot identify one of the associations stored in the memory based on the IP multicast destination address and the IP source address, is further for transmitting the Ethernet packet from the port means as destination unknown.

30. (Original) The apparatus of claim 28, further comprising:

central processing unit means for creating the association for the IP multicast destination address and the IP source address.

31. (Original) The apparatus of claim 21:

wherein the data-link layer switch controller means, when one of the Ethernet packets comprises a Media Access Control (MAC) multicast packet comprising a MAC multicast destination address and does not comprise an IP multicast packet, is further for selecting one or more of the port means based upon the MAC multicast destination address;

wherein the selected one or more port means transmit the Ethernet packet.

32. (Original) The apparatus of claim 31:

wherein the MAC multicast packet comprises a virtual local area network identifier (VLAN ID); and

wherein the data-link layer switch controller means is further for selecting the one or more of the port means based upon the MAC multicast destination address and the VLAN ID.

33. (Original) The apparatus of claim 31, further comprising:

memory means for storing associations between MAC addresses and the port means; wherein, for selecting one or more of the port means based upon the MAC multicast destination address, the data-link layer switch controller means is further for selecting the one or more of the port means based upon the associations stored in the memory means.

34. (Original) The apparatus of claim 33, wherein, to select one or more of the port means based upon the MAC multicast destination address, the data-link layer switch controller means is further:

for identifying one of the associations stored in the memory means based on the MAC multicast destination address; and

for confirming the association is an association between a MAC address and the port means.

35. (Original) The apparatus of claim 34, wherein, for identifying one of the associations stored in the memory means based on the MAC multicast destination address, the data-link layer switch controller means is further:

for generating a key based on the MAC multicast destination address; and

for identifying the one of the associations based on the key.

36. (Original) The apparatus of claim 34, wherein, for confirming the association is an association between a MAC address and the port means, the data-link layer switch controller means is further:

for determining whether the association is marked as a MAC multicast association.

37. (Previously Presented) An apparatus comprising:

a plurality of port means for receiving Ethernet packets;

data-link layer switch controller means, when one of the Ethernet packets comprises an Internet protocol (IP) multicast packet comprising an IP multicast destination address and an IP source address, for selecting one or more of the port means based upon the IP multicast destination address and the IP source address;

wherein the selected one or more port means transmit the Ethernet packet,

wherein the data-link layer switch controller means, when one of the Ethernet packets comprises a Media Access Control (MAC) multicast packet comprising a MAC multicast destination address and does not comprise an IP multicast packet, is further for selecting one or more of the port means based upon the MAC multicast destination address;

wherein the selected one or more port means transmit the Ethernet packet,

memory means for storing associations between MAC addresses and the port means; wherein, for selecting one or more of the port means based upon the MAC multicast destination address, the data-link layer switch controller means is further for selecting the one or more of the port means based upon the associations stored in the memory means, wherein, to select one or more of the port means based upon the MAC multicast destination address, the data-link layer switch controller means is further for identifying one of the associations stored in the memory means based on the MAC multicast destination address, and

for confirming the association is an association between a MAC address and the port means,

wherein, for confirming the association is an association between a MAC address and the port means, the data-link layer switch controller means is further for determining whether the association is marked as a MAC multicast association, wherein, for determining whether the association is marked as a MAC multicast association, the data-link layer switch controller means is further for determining whether a flag stored in the memory means and corresponding to the association is clear.

38. (Original) The apparatus of claim 31, further comprising:

memory means for storing a bridge table comprising a plurality of entries each identifying one or more of the port means and addressable by a key;

wherein, for selecting one or more of the port means based upon the IP multicast destination address and the IP source address, the data-link layer switch controller means is further for generating the key based upon the IP multicast destination address and the IP source address;

wherein, for selecting one or more of the port means based upon the MAC multicast destination address, the data-link layer switch controller means is further for generating the key based upon the MAC multicast destination address; and

wherein the selected port means comprise the port means identified by the bridge table entry addressed by the key.

39. (Original) An integrated circuit comprising the apparatus of claim 21.

40. (Original) An Ethernet switch comprising the apparatus of claim 21.

41. (Previously Presented) A method for a data-link layer switch comprising a plurality of ports, the method comprising:

receiving an Ethernet packet on one of the ports;

when the Ethernet packet comprises an Internet protocol (IP) multicast packet comprising an IP multicast destination address and an IP source address,

requesting generation of an entry in a bridge table based on said IP multicast destination address and said IP source address,

selecting one or more others of the ports based upon the entry; and

transmitting the Ethernet packet from the selected one or more ports.

42. (Original) The method of claim 41, wherein the IP multicast packet comprises a virtual local area network identifier (VLAN ID), further comprising:

selecting the one or more of the ports based upon the IP multicast destination address, the IP source address, and the VLAN ID.

43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 41, further comprising:

storing associations between IP addresses and the ports, wherein said associations include said entry; and

wherein selecting one or more of the ports based upon the IP multicast destination address and the IP source address comprises selecting the one or more of the ports based upon the associations.

44. (Original) The method of claim 43, wherein selecting one or more of the ports based upon the IP multicast destination address and the IP source address comprises:

identifying one of the associations based on the IP multicast destination address and the IP source address; and

confirming the association is an association between an IP address and the ports.

45. (Original) The method of claim 44, wherein identifying one of the associations based on the IP multicast destination address and the IP source address comprises:

generating a key based on the IP multicast destination address and the IP source address; and

identifying the one of the associations based on the key.

46. (Original) The method of claim 44, wherein confirming the association is an association between an IP address and the ports comprises:

determining whether the association is marked as an IP multicast association.

47. (Previously Presented) A method for a data-link layer switch comprising a plurality of ports, the method comprising:

receiving an Ethernet packet on one of the ports;

when the Ethernet packet comprises an Internet protocol (IP) multicast packet comprising an IP multicast destination address and an IP source address, selecting one or more others of the ports based upon the IP multicast destination address and the IP source address;

transmitting the Ethernet packet from the selected one or more ports,
storing associations between IP addresses and the ports;

wherein selecting one or more of the ports based upon the IP multicast destination address and the IP source address comprises selecting the one or more of the ports based upon the associations, identifying one of the associations based on the IP multicast destination address and the IP source address, and confirming the association is an association between an IP address and the ports,

wherein confirming the association is an association between an IP address and the ports comprises determining whether the association is marked as an IP multicast association,

wherein determining whether the association is marked as an IP multicast association comprises determining whether a flag corresponding to the association is set.

48. (Original) The method of claim 44, further comprising:

generating a message requesting the creation of an association for the IP multicast destination address and the IP source address when an association cannot be identified based on the IP multicast destination address and the IP source address.

49. (Original) The method of claim 44, further comprising:
transmitting the Ethernet packet from the ports as destination unknown.
50. (Original) The method of claim 48, further comprising:
creating the association for the IP multicast destination address and the IP source address.
51. (Original) The method of claim 41:
when the Ethernet packet comprises a Media Access Control (MAC) multicast packet comprising a MAC multicast destination address and does not comprise an IP multicast packet, selecting one or more of the ports based upon the MAC multicast destination address; and
transmitting the Ethernet packet from the selected one or more ports.
52. (Original) The method of claim 51, wherein the MAC multicast packet comprises a virtual local area network identifier (VLAN ID), further comprising:
selecting the one or more of the ports based upon the MAC multicast destination address and the VLAN ID.
53. (Original) The method of claim 51, further comprising:
storing associations between MAC addresses and the ports;

wherein selecting one or more of the ports based upon the MAC multicast destination address comprises selecting the one or more of the ports based upon the associations.

54. (Original) The method of claim 53, wherein selecting one or more of the ports based upon the MAC multicast destination address comprises:

identifying one of the associations based on the MAC multicast destination address; and

confirming the association is an association between a MAC address and the ports.

55. (Original) The method of claim 54, wherein identifying one of the associations stored in the memory based on the MAC multicast destination address comprises:

generating a key based on the MAC multicast destination address; and

identifying the one of the associations based on the key.

56. (Original) The method of claim 54, wherein confirming the association is an association between a MAC address and the ports comprises:

determining whether the association is marked as a MAC multicast association.

57. (Previously Presented) A method for a data-link layer switch comprising a plurality of ports, the method comprising:

receiving an Ethernet packet on one of the ports;

when the Ethernet packet comprises an Internet protocol (IP) multicast packet comprising an IP multicast destination address and an IP source address,

selecting one or more others of the ports based upon the IP multicast destination address and the IP source address;

transmitting the Ethernet packet from the selected one or more ports,

when the Ethernet packet comprises a Media Access Control (MAC) multicast packet comprising a MAC multicast destination address and does not comprise an IP multicast packet, selecting one or more of the ports based upon the MAC multicast destination address and transmitting the Ethernet packet from the selected one or more ports;

storing associations between MAC addresses and the ports;

wherein selecting one or more of the ports based upon the MAC multicast destination address comprises selecting the one or more of the ports based upon the associations, identifying one of the associations based on the MAC multicast destination address, and confirming the association is an association between a MAC address and the ports,

wherein confirming the association is an association between a MAC address and the ports comprises determining whether the association is marked as a MAC multicast association, wherein determining whether the association is marked as a

MAC multicast association comprises determining whether a flag stored in the memory and corresponding to the association is clear.

58. (Original) The method of claim 51, further comprising:

storing a bridge table comprising a plurality of entries each identifying one or more of the ports and addressable by a key;

wherein selecting one or more of the ports based upon the IP multicast destination address and the IP source address comprises generating the key based upon the IP multicast destination address and the IP source address;

wherein selecting one or more of the ports based upon the MAC multicast destination address comprises generating the key based upon the MAC multicast destination address; and

wherein the selected ports comprise the ports identified by the bridge table entry addressed by the key.

59. (Currently Amended) A computer program stored on a computer readable medium embodying instructions executable by a computer for a data-link layer switch comprising a plurality of ports, said instructions comprising:

when an Ethernet packet received on one of the ports comprises an Internet protocol (IP) multicast packet comprising an IP multicast destination address and an IP source address;

requesting generation of an entry in a bridge table based on said IP multicast destination address and said IP source address; and

selecting one or more others of the ports based upon the entry; and
causing the data-link layer switch to transmit the Ethernet packet from the
selected one or more ports.

60. (Currently Amended) The computer program of claim 59, wherein the IP
multicast packet comprises a virtual local area network identifier (VLAN ID), said
instructions further comprising:

selecting the one or more of the ports based upon the IP multicast
destination address, the IP source address, and the VLAN ID.

61. (Currently Amended) The computer program of claim 59, said instructions
further comprising:

storing associations between IP addresses and the ports, wherein said
associations include said entry; and

wherein selecting one or more of the ports based upon the IP multicast
destination address and the IP source address comprises selecting the one or more of
the ports based upon the associations.

62. (Original) The computer program of claim 61, wherein selecting one or
more of the ports based upon the IP multicast destination address and the IP source
address comprises: identifying one of the associations based on the IP multicast
destination address and the IP source address; and

confirming the association is an association between an IP address and the ports.

63. (Original) The computer program of claim 62, wherein identifying one of the associations based on the IP multicast destination address and the IP source address comprises:

generating a key based on the IP multicast destination address and the IP source address; and

identifying the one of the associations based on the key.

64. (Original) The computer program of claim 62, wherein confirming the association is an association between an IP address and the ports comprises:

determining whether the association is marked as an IP multicast association.

65. (Currently Amended) A computer program stored on a computer readable medium embodying instructions executable by a computer for a data-link layer switch comprising a plurality of ports, said instructions comprising:

when an Ethernet packet received on one of the ports comprises an Internet protocol (IP) multicast packet comprising an IP multicast destination address and an IP source address, selecting one or more others of the ports based upon the IP multicast destination address and the IP source address;

causing the data-link layer switch to transmit the Ethernet packet from the selected one or more ports, further comprising: storing associations between IP addresses and the ports;

wherein selecting one or more of the ports based upon the IP multicast destination address and the IP source address comprises selecting the one or more of the ports based upon the associations, wherein selecting one or more of the ports based upon the IP multicast destination address and the IP source address comprises identifying one of the associations based on the IP multicast destination address and the IP source address; and

confirming the association is an association between an IP address and the ports,

wherein confirming the association is an association between an IP address and the ports comprises determining whether the association is marked as an IP multicast association,

wherein determining whether the association is marked as an IP multicast association comprises determining whether a flag corresponding to the association is set.

66. (Currently Amended) The computer program of claim 62, said instructions further comprising:

generating a message requesting the creation of an association for the IP multicast destination address and the IP source address when an association cannot be identified based on the IP multicast destination address and the IP source address.

67. (Currently Amended) The computer program of claim 62, said instructions further comprising:

causing the data-link layer switch to transmit the Ethernet packet from the ports as destination unknown.

68. (Currently Amended) The computer program of claim 66, said instructions further comprising:

creating the association for the IP multicast destination address and the IP source address.

69. (Currently Amended) The computer program of claim 59, said instructions further comprising:

when the Ethernet packet comprises a Media Access Control (MAC) multicast packet comprising a MAC multicast destination address and does not comprise an IP multicast packet, selecting one or more of the ports based upon the MAC multicast destination address; and

causing the data-link layer switch to transmit the Ethernet packet from the selected one or more ports.

70. (Currently Amended) The computer program of claim 69, wherein the MAC multicast packet comprises a virtual local area network identifier (VLAN ID), said

instructions further comprising: selecting the one or more of the ports based upon the MAC multicast destination address and the VLAN ID.

71. (Currently Amended) The computer program of claim 69, said instructions further comprising:

storing associations between MAC addresses and the ports;

wherein selecting one or more of the ports based upon the MAC multicast destination address comprises selecting the one or more of the ports based upon the associations.

72. (Original) The computer program of claim 71, wherein selecting one or more of the ports based upon the MAC multicast destination address comprises:

identifying one of the associations based on the MAC multicast destination address; and

confirming the association is an association between a MAC address and the ports.

73. (Original) The computer program of claim 72, wherein identifying one of the associations stored in the memory based on the MAC multicast destination address comprises:

generating a key based on the MAC multicast destination address; and

identifying the one of the associations based on the key.

74. (Original) The computer program of claim 72, wherein confirming the association is an association between a MAC address and the ports comprises:

determining whether the association is marked as a MAC multicast association.

75. (Currently Amended) A computer program stored on a computer readable medium embodying instructions executable by a computer for a data-link layer switch comprising a plurality of ports, said instructions comprising:

when an Ethernet packet received on one of the ports comprises an Internet protocol (IP) multicast packet comprising an IP multicast destination address and an IP source address, selecting one or more others of the ports based upon the IP multicast destination address and the IP source address;

causing the data-link layer switch to transmit the Ethernet packet from the selected one or more ports, when the Ethernet packet comprises a Media Access Control (MAC) multicast packet comprising a MAC multicast destination address and does not comprise an IP multicast packet, selecting one or more of the ports based upon the MAC multicast destination address; and causing the data-link layer switch to transmit the Ethernet packet from the selected one or more ports;

storing associations between MAC addresses and the ports,

wherein selecting one or more of the ports based upon the MAC multicast destination address comprises selecting the one or more of the ports based upon the associations,

wherein selecting one or more of the ports based upon the MAC multicast destination address comprises identifying one of the associations based on the MAC multicast destination address and confirming the association is an association between a MAC address and the ports,

wherein confirming the association is an association between a MAC address and the ports comprises determining whether the association is marked as a MAC multicast association,

wherein determining whether the association is marked as a MAC multicast association comprises determining whether a flag stored in the memory and corresponding to the association is clear.

76. (Currently Amended) The computer program of claim 69, said instructions further comprising:

storing a bridge table comprising a plurality of entries each identifying one or more of the ports and addressable by a key;

wherein selecting one or more of the ports based upon the IP multicast destination address and the IP source address comprises generating the key based upon the IP multicast destination address and the IP source address;

wherein selecting one or more of the ports based upon the MAC multicast destination address comprises generating the key based upon the MAC multicast destination address; and

wherein the selected ports comprise the ports identified by the bridge table entry addressed by the key.

77. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said bridge table includes entries for Media Access Control (MAC) multicast destination addresses.

78. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said data-link layer switch controller uses said bridge table for Ethernet bridging.